



Video Update – January 2016
Willy Reimer, CCMBC Executive Director

Well, I want to greet you, first of all, with a Happy New Year as we enter 2016!

As a Canadian conference of churches, we have [had] an initiative the last few years to hold a week of prayer in the first month of the year to...set our hearts in the right direction, to participate together as churches, to come before the Lord to ask him to intervene in our lives, and in our culture and in our country for the sake of the gospel and to see people come to Christ.

This year, our focus is Micah 6:8, which I will just read for you. It says:

*He has showed you, O man, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you:
to act justly, to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God.*

This year, we thought it was appropriate for us to focus on justice: what does it mean to be the people of God in word and deed? This is true in how we relate to each other, how we follow the Lord's leading, how we follow his Spirit, and how we communicate the gospel to each other and how we communicate it out in our lives.

How we live it out...is incredibly important and has taken on perhaps even a new meaning given the whole refugee situation and the refugees that are coming from around the world, particularly out of Syria, into our neighbourhoods. [We] to have the opportunity to present the gospel in how we treat them, how we speak to them, how we invite them and how we love them.

This year's prayer guide was written by different members of the board of faith and life. And there are reflection sections of the prayer guide and also directions for prayer. It has been written with the intent to let you engage with the text and also let the text speak into your hearts and then guide you in how you pray, whether personally, [as a] small group or corporately.

We will have daily prayer guides for you that are published in the *MB Herald*. They're available online as well. You can also sign up for a daily prayer reminder (bit.ly/weekofprayer2016), and we would invite you to do this – whether it's as a church, in your small groups or individually.

We would invite you to communicate with us the things that the Lord is showing you as you pray and how this week of prayer is leading you personally and corporately.

And so, as we start off January 2016, we think it's so important, as I said, to get on our knees before God. To invite the Spirit to come into our lives, into our church, and to follow the Spirit's leading in what it means to be Micah 6:8 people in the 21st century.

Father, we want to thank you for your call on us to be Micah 6:8 kind of people. To walk humbly, to live justly, to honour you in everything that we do. It reflects who you are in our lives. And as we come before you in this week as Christ followers from across this great nation, Lord, I pray that you would pour your Spirit out on us and you would make us sensitive to what it means to take these things you've taught us in your Word through Micah and live them out today.

What does this mean in our relationships with each other? What does this mean in how we need to come before you with clean hearts,...asking you to speak into our lives? What does this mean in how we speak to each other? What does this mean in how we treat each other? What does this mean in how we live?

So Father, I pray that this week would not just be an emphasis, would not just be something that's on our calendar, but I pray it would change us, Lord, right across this country, as we have a greater appreciation for you, for your Word as you speak into our lives, for the Spirit and how you lead us. And so Father, may this week be a week that truly transforms us as Christ followers, and the impact of that transformation is lived out every day in all of our relationships.

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.